



Is It Worth It?

Psalms 73:13-17

Have You Ever Looked at the Christian Life and Wondered:

Is the Christian Life Really Worth Living?

Is it Worth the Struggles We Have?

Is it Worth the Sacrifices That We Make?

Is it Worth the Persecution and Ridicule We Endure?



Observations

- I don't doubt that many children of God, here today, have often seen morally corrupt people that they know, seemingly do well
- The writer of the song "Father Along" identifies with us:

*Tempted and tried we're oft
made to wonder,*

*Why it should be thus all the
day long.*

*While there are others living
about us,*

*Never molested though in
the wrong.*

A Religious Lawyer Named Horatio Spafford, in the 1870's, Penned Another Familiar Song

- In the year 1870 he had a son to die of scarlet fever
- In 1871, during “The Great Chicago Fire,” 17,000 buildings were destroyed; He lost virtually all his wealth overnight
- In 1873 a ship carrying his immediate family members sank, killing four of his daughters
- Afterwards, while sailing in the waters where his children had suffered and drowned, he penned these words:

When peace like a river attendeth my way,

When sorrows like sea billows roll.

Whatever my lot thou hast taught me to say,

It is well with my soul.

#1 Sometimes God's Children Have Questions. Psalms 73:1-5 N.L.T.

- Asaph was a Levite/Chief Priest, 1 Chronicles 16:5, who admits that his personal walk with God was difficult at times:

“Truly God is good to Israel, to those whose hearts are pure.

But as for me, I almost lost my footing ... For I envied the proud when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness.

They seem to live such painless lives; Their bodies are so healthy and strong. They don't have troubles like other people.”

- To Asaph, God seemed better to the wicked than to His own
- I believe that Asaph is asking the question: *“Based on what I'm seeing in the world, is my Godly life worth it?”*

Observations

- **There are countless blessings involved in the Christian life**
- **However sometimes we, as children of God, tend to lose our perspective; and rather than focusing on God, we focus on the circumstances and the possessions of other people**
- **Asaph studied the life of the wicked and compared them to his own life and there were some things that he just didn't understand. Look at verses 7-11, NLT:**
- ***“These fat cats have everything their hearts could ever wish for”(the wicked get everything they want) verse 7***
- ***“They scoff and speak only evil; in their pride they seek to crush others”(they bully their way around) verse 8***
- ***“What does God know?” they ask. “Does the Most High know what’s happening? (Is anybody up there?) Verse 11***

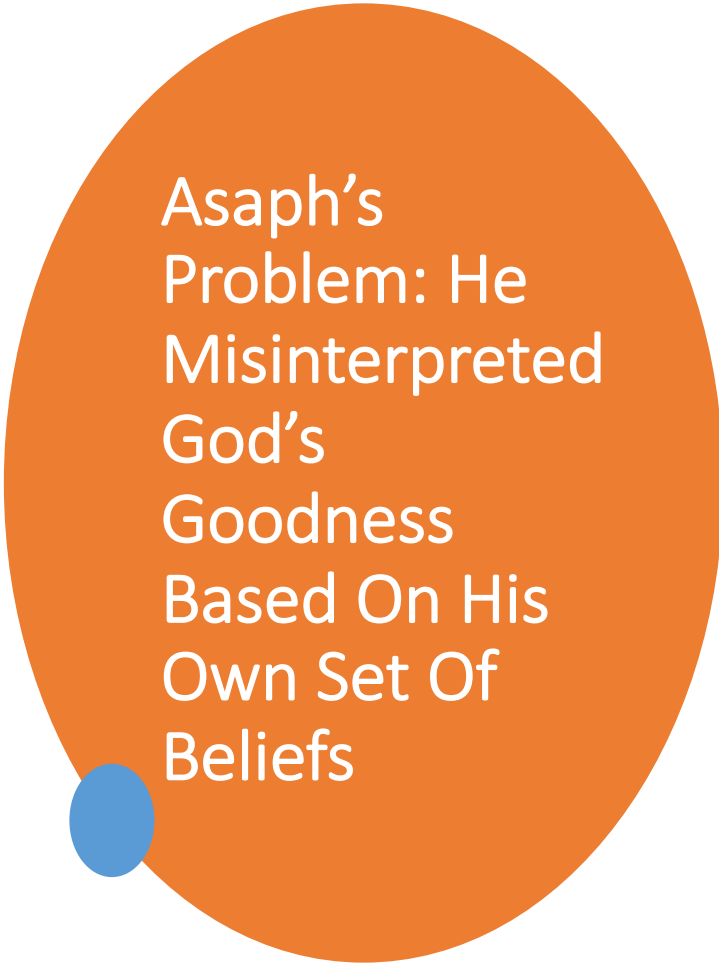
You Have Questions Like Asaph When:

- You wonder why a child of God struggles medically, while evil people seem to be **“the picture of health?”**
- You wonder why the lost world seems blessed with material goods, while you are struggling to pay your mortgage and living from paycheck to paycheck
- As a Christian teenager you complain that, *“the immoral youth get to have all the fun,”* while you have to be a, *“good little boy or girl?”* vs.9 *“they set their mouths against the heavens and their words strut... earth”* (Curse, Swear)
- You pass by a local park on Sunday and envy some people you see there having an *“all-day BBQ,”* *“just chillin,”* with social relaxation and conversation.
- It upsets you that a precious baby was shot with the gun of a drunk man who was mad at his baby’s momma?

#2 Sometimes God's Children Get Discouraged

Verses 13-16, "Did I keep my heart pure for nothing? Did I keep myself innocent for no reason? I get nothing but trouble all day long; every morning brings me pain. If I had spoken this way to others, I would have been a traitor to your people. So I tried to understand why the wicked prosper. But what a difficult task it is."

- *Asaph's argument is, "Lord, your way isn't working for me"*
- *"I try to walk the straight and narrow, but it doesn't matter" "Others get blessed without doing that."*
- *"I thought that if I worked hard in pursuing you, I shouldn't have to struggle so much, like others do!"*



Asaph's
Problem: He
Misinterpreted
God's
Goodness
Based On His
Own Set Of
Beliefs


His Belief: If He Lived the Right Life and Did the Right Things, Then God is Bound to Bless Him With All of His Goodness

Ask Job If That Is True ("There Is None Like Him", Job 1:8)

- **The fact is: God allows some unpleasant things to happen to us that are necessary to *mold us into His image***

Romans 8:29, "For whom he did foreknow he did also...."


- **Jesus was also allowed to face a life of unpleasantries. Heb. 5:8,9 for a greater purpose, Heb. 4:15**



But This
is the
Reality:

***Growing Our Relationship
With God Prepares Us For
the Struggles Ahead!
Romans 5:3-5***

***“... we glory in tribulations
also: knowing that tribulation
worketh patience; And
patience experience, and
experience hope; And hope
maketh not ashamed because
the love of God is shed abroad
in our hearts by the Holy Ghost
which is given unto us.”***



#3 Sometimes Children of God Must Change Their Perspective, Verses 16-17

“When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply until I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.”

- **Asaph didn't understand why bad things happen to good people and good things happen to bad people until he entered the worship of God**
- **God has thoughts on everything that happens to us**
- **One reason we worship God and study is to uncover the mystery of God's perspectives on our lives, Isaiah 55:8-9**
- **God's children may ask God to change their circumstances**
- **More times than not, God changes us in our circumstances**

We Must
Learn to
Look at
Things
With
Eternity
in Mind

- In worship you can observe “God’s View of the wicked”

As Asaph Observes in verse 18: *“Truly you put them on a slippery path and send them sliding over the cliff to destruction. In an instant they are destroyed completely swept away by terrors.”*

- Spiritual thinking teaches us that life is not a snapshot-

A snapshot picture only tells what or where people are right now (which is no predictor of where they will be in the future)

Spiritual thinking says roll the camera to 20 or 30 years from the snapshot, looking at the CONSEQUENCES of behavior, Matthew 7:13-14

Look At God's View Of Evildoers

Psalms 37:1-2

*“Do not fret because of evildoers,
Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.
For they shall soon be cut down like green grass,
And wither as the green herb.”(after summer comes fall and winter)*

- The success of immoral people is short-lived
- God says, *“If you are looking for short-lived success, don't listen to me and just do what makes you happy.”*
- But Remember: God will not be mocked! Gal. 6:7-8

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38